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example, in connection with the regulation of commerce and industry (chapter II. of Peterson), though fairs and markets are included, no mention is made of the extremely interesting law of 1692 (*Laws of the Colony of New York*, I. 296-300), where are set up

two fairs at the City of New-York, the first fair annually to commence the last Tuesday of Aprill in every year and to end upon the fryday then next following being in all four days inclusive and no Longer, And the second fair to commence the first Tuesday of November in every year, and to end upon the fryday then next following being in all four days inclusive and no Longer,

and where is authorized the establishment of "Courts of Pypowder", and in fact all of the conditions surrounding a full system of English fairs.

One is led to believe (p. 69, Peterson) that apprenticeship in industry was an institution of early New York of English origin only, whereas there are indentures in existence showing that the Dutch as well as the English carried on the common European practice (O'Callaghan, *Calendar of Dutch Manuscripts*, p. 44). Dr. Edwards in his chapter on trade and industry (pp. 61-95) does not deal with this subject at all, though it is during the period he covers rather than that covered by Dr. Peterson that this institution flourished most vigorously.

Other instances might be given to show the dangers of a too close restriction to the consideration of the city proceedings only, but sins of omission are never to be much emphasized.

An excellent quality, especially evident in Dr. Peterson's volume, is found in the use of the comparison of early conditions with those of the present day. This serves to enliven the narrative and constantly reminds the reader of how really old some of our problems of municipal government are. For that reason no student of present-day New York City conditions should fail to turn to these two volumes in order to get a detailed and highly illuminating view of municipal institutions. Those who are inclined to feel that all ills are of the present and blessings only of the past will do well to read them.

There is a very detailed table of contents in both volumes, but indexes, and lists of books used and referred to, are very much missed. These are not entirely compensated for by the table of contents and very careful references to authorities at the foot of each page.

JAMES SULLIVAN.

*Warren-Adams Letters, being chiefly a Correspondence among John Adams, Samuel Adams, and James Warren.* Volume I., 1743-1777. [Massachusetts Historical Society, Collections, vol. LXXII.] (Boston: Massachusetts Historical Society. 1917. Pp. xxxi, 382. \$3.00.)

BESIDE the principal content of this work, as indicated by the subtitle, the present volume contains the correspondence of Mercy Warren,

wife of James Warren, with John and Abigail Adams, Hannah Winthrop, and others, including several letters from her husband. A smaller element is some earlier correspondence of James Otis. The earliest of these is a letter from young Otis to his father, in 1743; the next is a letter from Otis to his sister (Mercy Warren), in 1766; and these are followed by four letters from John Dickinson to Otis, in 1767 and 1768, and a letter from Catharine Macaulay, in 1769. The correspondence between Samuel Adams and James Warren begins in 1771, that between Warren and John Adams in 1774. There are in the volume approximately 250 letters, of which more than 200 were written by John Adams, Samuel Adams, and James Warren, and of these John Adams wrote nearly half. There are no letters from James Warren to Samuel Adams. The editor has purposely omitted, with three or four exceptions, the letters from John Adams to James Warren (of which there are fifteen) printed in John Adams's *Works*. Of the letters of Samuel Adams here printed (fifty in number) about one-third are found in Cushing's edition of Samuel Adams's *Writings*. On the other hand there are several letters from Adams to Warren printed by Cushing which are not found in this volume. It is to be observed that Cushing used for the most part the drafts of Adams's letters now deposited in the New York Public Library, whereas the present texts are printed from the letters actually sent. A comparison of the respective texts shows in general only verbal variations, yet, in a few instances, the letters sent contain considerable additions, or modifications of the drafts.

From this general survey of the contents it will be recognized that the volume contains a large measure of essentially new material; new, that is, in much of its content, although not new in character and quality. There is little, indeed, in the whole volume that does not relate directly to the all-important question of defending American rights against ministerial aggression, and the parts which the principal writers played in that contest are well known. Dickinson's letters to Otis, for instance, relate principally to the *Farmer's Letters*, then being presented to the public, and emphasize his views. Letters of James Warren, one of the principal participants in the Massachusetts phase of the Revolution, have been less accessible than those of either John or Samuel Adams. Concerning the Massachusetts phase of the contest his letters are of especial value. The letters of the Adamses, written as the majority of them were from their seats in the Continental Congress, are particularly informing, concerning the transactions of that body. Both of them are, however, much concerned with affairs in Massachusetts, and are prone to view the struggle from the Massachusetts point of view, although, of the two, John Adams reveals a broader outlook, a clearer vision. While the new letters in the volume are without striking revelations concerning the views, attitudes, aspirations, or predilections of the writers, they do enlarge our knowledge of plans, purposes, and motives, do put us in closer touch with personalities great and small. For this is chiefly the correspondence of intimate personal friends.

The feminine writers whose letters find place in the volume sound no less a note of high resolve and patriotic purpose than the men. Abigail Adams and Mercy Warren are familiar figures in the political and literary history of the Revolution. Hannah Winthrop, if one may judge from the few letters of hers here presented, deserves a place near the other two. She wields a facile pen, one from which flows a lofty rhetoric, now well-nigh forgotten.

There are several facsimiles in the volume, including the resolution of secrecy passed by the Continental Congress in November, 1775, and signed by members, from time to time, as late as June, 1777. The editorial work is essentially all that could be asked. Attention however needs to be called to the fact that the letter of John Adams to James Warren, bearing date of February 11, 1775, belongs instead in the year 1776.

E. C. B.

*The History of Legislative Methods in the Period before 1825.* By RALPH VOLNEY HARLOW, Ph.D. [Yale Historical Publications, Miscellany, V.] (New Haven: Yale University Press; London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. 1917. Pp. x, 269. \$2.25.)

To the student of American history and politics this volume will be of considerable interest. Dr. Harlow has evidently made a detailed study of the committees in the legislatures of the American colonies, and further he has given serious attention to the party organizations, juntas, and political combinations which entered into colonial legislative processes.

In the chapter on Standing Committees in the Colonial Legislatures, 1750-1775, little new information is furnished, and the brief résumé of the subject given by the author is marred by several errors, which shake one's faith in the thoroughness of this part of his work. On page 12 one finds the following statement: "Why the committee on trade should have been appointed in 1742 is not so clear, but the committee for religion, created in 1769, was certainly the outgrowth of local conditions." The *Journals of the Virginia House of Burgesses, 1727-1740 and 1742-1749*, make it very clear why this committee was appointed. A standing committee was appointed in the first session of the assembly of 1736-1740 "to prepare and draw up a State of that Duty [the duty on slaves imported into the colony] and the several Payments that have been made, with the Amount thereof". This committee, reappointed in two other sessions of this assembly, became in 1742 the standing committee on trade. On page 13 one finds the statement that in 1775 Dinwiddie wrote to Halifax, "that our Assembly met", etc. Dinwiddie was lieutenant-governor of Virginia only from 1751-1758, and as he died in 1770 and Halifax died in 1771, it is certain that 1775 was not the date of this